Dear Parents and Caregivers

Wow, half of the school learning year has flown by bringing us to term 3. Term 3 is another busy term with cross country and interschool cross country (which we are hosting this year), school production, Youth Fest and Optiminds! Of course lots of learning is happening in classrooms. It’s a fun term that seems to have something for everyone!

I am very excited to inform parents and the school community that a hard working team of staff and parents commenced initial work on the Nature Play Space in the Pines area of the senior playground. It looks fantastic and each class is spending a day (at recess and lunch) initially testing it all out so that we can come up with agreed ways of keeping the area a safe play space. The area will then be opened up to all children. So far I have watched children absolutely delighted to be able to drag bits of wood to create a shelter, roll tyres and sit in the wooden tepee structure. Feedback from the students so far is that “it’s awesome!” Thank you to parents and staff who were involved in bringing this space to life!

I would also like to acknowledge the sad passing of one of the dads here at Sawyers Valley. Our condolences and warm thoughts are with Andrea, Annelies and Matthew Day.

Enjoy the days as they start to feel a little warmer.
Have a super fortnight

Morning Tea with the Principal

On Monday 30th June I had morning tea with only two little people (the third student was home sick). Taj brought along a picture that he had done, where he had represented a part of the story Bunjil the Eagle, an Aboriginal Dreamtime story. I had not read the story so Taj happily recounted that the story was about an eagle and a crow fighting because the crow kept going into Eagle’s nest. Crow kept poking the fire and he turned a hill into a volcano! Fire went to the other hills. They also had a competition to see who could throw a rock the highest and Eagle won.

Taj’s picture was of Crow poking the stick into the fire. I found out that Taj loves recess and lunch because he gets to play and one day he wants to be a builder and build his own house. We also found out that Taj’s family have a Shar Pei dog called Boris. Amelie brought along a recont of the whole school excursion to the Hills Centre. The group that Amelie was in had their faces painted and went into the bush to look for kangaroos. One of the

MISSION STATEMENT

Sawyers Valley Primary School aims to create and foster an environment where students become independent learners, enabling them to take responsible control of their lives and contribute meaningfully to society.
children in Amelie's group carried the spear thrower! Amelie loves to do writing and art at school and likes to play at recess like Taj. We found out that Amelie would like to be a vet when she is older. Amelie's family has a corgi as their pet called Rosebud. Rosebud is eight years old like her brother. We had a look on the computer to see what Corgis and Shar Pei dogs look like.

Congratulations to Rm 6 for an attendance rate of 99.62% for Weeks 9 and 10 of Term 2.

Students have the chance to turn the tables on staff at their school and award them with merit certificates as part of the WA Education Awards. The merit certificates are an opportunity for students and parents to recognise the work of school staff and let them know they value the work they are doing. If you would like to find out more or to download a certificate click here.

LUNCH ORDERS
We are happy to start lunch orders this week each Wednesday in partnership with the Baytree Bakery and Cafe in Chidlow. Menus were emailed to families last week but if you have misplaced it please contact the office so we can get another one to you. The Baytree Bakery is offering quality lunch items and will deliver them freshly made and ready to eat at lunch. Please ensure your child's order is in their class basket by 9 on Wednesday. Sorry but no late orders accepted.

Bushfire responses put to the test
Schools put bushfire responses to the test
Click on the link above to see the work that the Hills schools have been involved in. We are heading into Bushfire Season and I encourage the community to access the DFES website (http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/alerts/Pages/default.aspx) to ensure that you and your family are prepared.

cyber(smart:)
Expression of interest notes went home last week about this free parent session.
ACMA (Australian Consumer and Media Authority) will be presenting 3 sessions (one for students, one for teachers and one for parents) about being Cybersmart on Thursday 31st July. Each presentation is approximately 60 minutes excluding question time. These presentations cover a range of issues including:
· the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
· potential risks faced by students online such as cyberbullying, identity theft, unwanted contact and exposure to offensive content
· tips and strategies to help students stay safe online.
The presentations are delivered by a team of Outreach trainers, each of whom is an education specialist. Outreach services schools from all sectors nationally.
Staff will participate in an after school session as part of their professional learning.
A FREE parent/community session is booked for Thursday 31st July, starting @ 5.30pm. This is a not to be missed information session for parents and carers of young people online. (Your children are welcome to come with you but you are responsible for their supervision at all times)
For more information, please visit http://cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx

To assist us with ensuring we have enough seating put out, please complete the slip at the bottom of the note that went home last week advising us how many people from your family will be attending.
Last Monday a group of very keen students came back a day early from holidays to prepare for the upcoming Optiminds competition. Sawyers Valley will enter two teams into the Regional Competition. Toby, Khobi, Kawlija, Oliver, Bethany, Laura and Ellen will enter the Maths Engineering section and Jasmine, Jolyon, Kayla, Matthew, Annelies, Molly and Niamh will compete in the Social Science Section. The students are working at home and meeting each Friday after school to prepare. The Regional Competition will be at Curtin University on 30 August.

In the last week of term students in Years 4 to 7 visited Eastern Hills Senior High School for the Primary Proms Concert. Students experienced performances from a number of the high school ensembles. We were pleased to spot around a dozen ex-students performing.

As most parents will be aware the students are in preparation for the school musicals. Rooms 2, 3, 8 and 6 will perform Stella the Starfish, with Rooms 7, 4 and 5 creating We Are Monsters.

Dates to remember are:

1 September: Senior Production: All Day rehearsal at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre for all Students in Rooms 4, 5 and 7
8 September: Junior Production: All Day rehearsal at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre for all Students in Rooms 6, 8, 3 and 2 (+ some crew students from Upper School)
10 September: Both Productions: Evening Performance at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre for all Students.
20 or 21 September: Both Productions: Daytime Performance at Hackett Hall, Floreat for Youthfest, the Children's Section of the State One Act Drama Festival

If your child will be unable to perform on any of these dates, could you please let Performing Arts Teacher, Kimberley Shaw via email to Kimberley.Shaw@education.wa.edu.au

We are asking parents to help with costumes for the production, both by supplying simple costume parts and this year, by asking parents to assist with some costume construction. If you can help with making costumes, could you please email Kimberley.Shaw@education.wa.edu.au or send a note via your classroom teacher.

Room 2
Will be a Seaweed Chorus. We are asking parents to supply black track pants or leggings. We will supply green t-shirts. We are looking for parents to help us construct seaweed "popovers" for the children.

Room 3
Will be Rainbow Fish. We are asking parents to supply brightly, block coloured track pants or leggings. We will supply t-shirts and hats. We are looking for parents to help us construct ponchos" for the children.

Room 8
Will be Clown Fish. We are asking parents of boys to supply white karate pants if at all possible. We will supply remaining karate pants, leggings for the girls, t-shirts and hats. We are looking for parents to help us hand paint the t-shirts for the children.

Room 6
Will be Narrators, Seaweed Band and Leaders and Principal Characters. We will costume Principal Characters except for the "children" who are asked to wear their own casual clothes. Seaweed children are asked to follow the instructions for Room 2. Narrators are asked to supply black track pants or leggings.

Room 7
Will be Werewolves. Students are asked to supply casual clothing in blues, brown and greens. Pants
can be jeans, track pants, khakis or leggings in blues browns or greens. Tops can be sweatshirts, t-shirts or casual shirts. Checked flannelette shirts (not red) are particularly sought after.

**Room 5**
Will be Vampires. Students are asked to supply "dressy" clothing in black, white and red and if possible top this with a vampire cape. I have some spares.

**Room 4**
Will be Werewolves, Kids, and various Monsters. Werewolves are asked to follow the instructions for Room 7. Kids are asked to wear their own clothing as discussed. We will costume the remaining monsters.

**Crew**
Crew for any room are asked to wear plain black clothing (with special additions as discussed in class).

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**HILLS FOREST EXCURSION - MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2014**

Class recount by Room 3, Year 1.
The bus picked us up and took us to the place. It is called Nearer to Nature. Zach welcomed us and told us his name. We had our recess on the steps. We split up into groups. Some people got face painted and some people went hunting. We put tree sap on our hands. If you cut yourself it helps your skin to heal. Boys got to throw a boomerang. It went very far but it didn’t come. Trevor showed us how to throw it. He could throw really far. The boys threw spears and boomerangs at a kangaroo skin. The girls were digging for potatoes and then pretend to cook them. We made honky nut necklaces and painted them. We saw a kangaroo. It was looking for food. It eats grass. We saw a really big kangaroo. Trevor ate some bark. He cleaned his teeth with red gum sap. The aboriginal people used leaves from the soap bush to wash the babies with a little bit of water. Our favourite part was when we saw the three kangaroos. We liked it when we got our face painted. Washing the tree sap off our hands was fun. We liked when we did our hand prints on some material. We really liked the dreamtime stories.

**Recount by Matthew Day – Room 8, Year 3.**

**Learning about Aboriginal Culture**
On Monday the 23rd of June the school went to the Perth hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring. We went there to learn about Aboriginal Culture.
First we did fishing and we made string. We tied it on to some bamboo sticks and then we weaved some plants through the bamboo sticks. The plants made it like a net and we went to a pond with fake fish in it. Three people had gum boots on and another three people had sticks. They were very long. The people with gum boots on pushed the fake fish to the people with the sticks.
Secondly we got our face painted and then we went hunting for fake animals. The boys got sharp spears and the girls got digging sticks. We found a fake kangaroo and we had two goes at hitting it. Then we danced around the fake fire. Next we saw how to throw a boomerang.
Finally we went back to school and we went home. I felt very happy.

**Recount by Toby Mees – Room 4, Year 6**
On the 23th of June 2014 our school went on an excursion to the Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring. We learnt HEAPS of things about aboriginal culture, mostly the Noongar. Here are five things I learnt:
I learnt that fire is extremely hard to make! The Noongar use the flowers from Balgas (Grasstrees) to create two sticks, one slightly thicker than the other. The thicker one has a hole in it, in which the user places pieces of coal, and then rub your hands on the smaller one (which is placed in the hole) so it creates friction. I found it difficult to create heat let alone fire!
I also discovered how to throw a gidge (spear). It is not as easy as it looks because you have to keep the end of the gidge in a hole at the end of another stick. You also had to flick your wrist as you let go of the gidge as well as giving it enough force.
I also learnt how to create rope and twine out of box reed. For the rope you have to crush the reed so it’s easier to work with. Then you twist one end one way and the other the other way then you pinch it in the middle and fold it over then let go of the pinched end, it should twist itself into a rope
then you tie it at the end. For the twine you do the same first step then pull three equal length, equal width pieces from the original box reed, then tie them together at the top then plait them and tie them at the base.

I also learnt how to grind seeds into powder or flour. The Noongar women would have ground all of the seeds into flour. All you have to do is use a rock to grind all the seeds into powder. Although it’s easy it’s also VERY time consuming.

I also learnt a lot about their weapons, for example: All the boomerangs and gidges are made by shaping them with rocks! Also the Noongar are as handy with boomerangs and gidges as I am at hockey!

I enjoyed the excursion a lot and would like to go again if possible. I learnt about as much information as a whole WEEK of school! I would suggest this excursion to the whole of AUSTRALIA!!!

By Toby Mees

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**SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2014**

This year’s school productions will be held on Wednesday 10th September at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre.

**Tickets will be on sale in weeks 5 and 6.**

**Tickets prices are $12 per adult per performance and $5 per child per performance. Four and under on your knee is free.**

**There will be NO door sales this year.**

More information in future newsletters
A new era for our historic pines area

Work has commenced in the pines area over the school holidays. A dedicated team of parents and staff got together to install a beautiful balance log and a bush teepee.

The area will be open for the business of play from Week 1 of term 3. The students will initially access the area as class groups so they can familiarize themselves with the zone and the natural materials available to them. Staff will carefully monitor the use of the area and encourage students to think about and generate some ‘rules’ for play that will keep them safe and happy.

Please chat to your children about whether they accessed the area, the games that they played and what they enjoyed. Staff will be most interested in your feedback.

If you want to become involved or you have natural materials to offer (logs, stumps, rocks, boulders) please get in contact with admin or Danielle up in the Pre-Primary. Thank you to the Mees’ family for their lovely pine ‘stumps’ that have been already been put to good use!

What is social and emotional learning?

School is not only about reading, writing and arithmetic. It’s also about making friends, learning how to work with others, and knowing how to be responsible for yourself.

Knowing how to manage feelings and get on with others are important skills for everyone. This kind of learning starts in early childhood with parents and carers as children’s most important first teachers.

Research has found that teaching children social and emotional skills at school as well as at home makes a positive difference to their wellbeing. Social and emotional skills help school children settle in the classroom and get on with learning.

Useful skills to learn include:
- coping with frustrations or worries
- getting along with others
- Solving problems.

The kinds of social and emotional skills that are important for children to develop have been identified by researchers as:

**Self-awareness** - Understanding feelings, self-confidence.

**Social awareness** - Respecting and understanding others, and appreciating differences between people.

**Self-management** - Managing emotions, being able to set goals and stick to them.

**Responsible decision-making** - Choosing wisely and thoughtfully.

**Relationship skills** - Cooperating, communicating, making friends and resolving conflict.
NEW BENCHES
We would like to thank you to the P&C for the purchase of 3 new benches for our grounds. Also many thanks to Fiona Kent for installing them with the help from

Farewell to Linda Tyrell
I would like to let our school community know that we farewelled one of our cleaners, Linda tyrell, to retirement at the end of last term. We would like to thank Linda for her service over the past 4 years.

CONTRIBUTIONS
As we are heading towards the end of Semester One we are again asking families to make contribution payments.

A voluntary contribution of $50 per student is requested.

To make it easier for families you are welcome to pay via bank transfer into our Bendigo Bank account in Mundaring.

Account Name: Sawyers Valley Primary School
BSB: 633-000
Account Number: 150617231

Please ensure you put your family name in the reference / description area when making your payment so we know who has made a payment.

P&C NEWS
Cross Country
The P&C will be holding a cake stall at the Cross Country this Friday the 1st August. We would appreciate donations of baked goods or fruit to sell along with tea and coffee. Items can be dropped off at the stand on the day. (Please ensure ingredients are attached to any baked items)

P&C General Meeting
**********TONIGHT**********
Tuesday 29th July at 6.30pm
in the Staffroom

Items for discussion at this meeting:
Cross Country / Interschool Cross Country Refreshments
Faction Carnival Lunch
School Production Refreshments
Interschool Sports Carnival

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Did you see Saturday evening’s episode of gardening Australia featuring one of our SVPS families Danielle Murphy and Steve Nimmo and their fabulous garden?

COMMUNITY NEWS

The school is often asked to include community news or additional information sheets with our newsletter but please be aware that the school does not necessarily endorse or recommend these particular services.

Eastern Hills Cricket Junior Cricket Club... registration day for junior cricket on Saturday 9th August at Mt Helena Deli from 12 to 2pm. Season starts in October. Boys and girls. Any queries please contact Natalie on 041 9969 533

Gidgegannup Basketball Club... registration day is on the 18th August 2014, 3.30-6pm at Percy Cullen Oval, Toodyay Rd, Gidgegannup. Teams are available for boys and girls from Year 3’s to Adults, training at Gidge and games at Mundaring. Season starts in October 2014. Registration is also available by email. More details about the club, competition, game nights and registration forms are available on our webpage http://www.gidgegannup.info/sports/basketball.htm or phone Judy on 0403210985.